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MOONLIGHT EVENTS AND FREE DAYS

HIGHLIGHT VALLES CALDERA WINTER RECREATION

Snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and sleigh rides highlight a full calendar of activities and events at the Valles Caldera National Preserve this winter. In addition, two free trail access days will be offered. Winter hours are Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the Valle Grande Staging Area. The Preserve will be open daily from December 19 through January 4 except Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The Preserve will also open for the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, January 19 and for Presidents' Day, February 16.



Skiing and snowshoeing open the season on December 6, snow cover permitting. Fees are \$12.50 for adults, \$10 for seniors (62 years and older), and accompanied children 16 and under are free. Five-day passes are available for \$45 per adult or senior and accompanied children 16 and under are free. Reservations are not required, but all must check in

and depart from the Valle Grande Staging Area. A limited number of snowshoes are available for rent at \$15 for adult-sizes and \$10 for youth-sizes. Also, the Valle Grande Trail, Coyote Call Trail, and the surrounding area on the south side of State Highway 4 will remain open daily for hiking, skiing and snowshoeing free of charge. Leashed dogs are now permitted within the Valle Grande on La Jara K9 Trail and non-groomed areas when snow cover is present.

Visitors can enjoy **free skiing and snowshoeing** during Public Appreciation Day, December 20 and Winter Trails Day, January 10. Carpooling is recommended for these free events because parking is limited. Check in and check out at the Valle Grande Staging Area is required.

Three Saturday Moonlight Events are scheduled from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on January 3 & 31; and March 7. Hike, snowshoe, or ski into the moonlight hours. This special event is one where fond memories are made. Journey over moonlit trails, cozy up next to a fire, gaze up at the starlit sky, and enjoy interpretive presentations in our warm bunkhouse over hot chocolate. Event fees are \$12.50 per adult, \$10 per senior (62 years and older), and FREE for children 16 years of age and under accompanied by a parent/guardian. Those that purchase a day-use permit during normal business hours on the event day may stay throughout the moonlight event hours at no extra charge. There are a limited number of snowshoes and poles available for rent at the Valle Grande Gift Shop. Rental fees are \$15 for adult-sized snowshoes and \$10 for youth-sized snowshoes.



Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides will offer visitors an hour long excursion through the winter landscape. Reservations are recommended to guarantee a seat but drop-ins will be accommodated if there are seats available.

Christmas Tree Sales begin the day after Thanksgiving on Friday, November 28 and run through December 21 at the Valle Grande Staging Area.

Details on events and reservations can be found on our website at www.vallescaldera.gov or by calling 1-866-382-5537. Weather or other unforeseen circumstances may force cancellation of activities or closure of the Valle Grande. Please call our telephone hotline for up to date information about weather, activities, closings and more at (505) 469-6842.